(b) whether Government are aware that there are no uniform norms for the public in the States for distribution of ration through Public Distribution;

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to strike uniformity in issuance of Ration to the public throughout the country; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to issue direction to the States for uniform rationing of foodgrains and other essential commodities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The operational responsibility for implementation of the Scheme of Public Distribution System (PDS) is that of the State Governments and UT Administrations. Decisions relating to scale of entitlement of PDS commodities are matters within the administrative jurisdiction of State Governments and are decided by them taking into account various factors such as quantum of allocation to the State, Sub-allocation to the districts/region within the State, local requirements etc. It would neither be feasible nor desirable to impose uniform scales of ration throughout the country.

Surprise-checks on Fair Price Shops under Public Distribution System

1234. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to conduct surprise-checks on the Fair Price Shops under the Public Distribution System in the country, particularly, in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) State Governments have the operational responsibility for implementing the Public Distribution System (PDS). Licensing of fair price shops and supervision of actual distribution of PDS commodities including surprise inspections etc. are matters entirely within the administrative jurisdiction of the States.

(c) The Central Government has advised the State Governments to exercise strict supervision over all fair price shops for ensuring proper implementation of the PDS. The need for ensuring people's participation in exercising vigilance over the system has been emphasised and State Governments have been requested to set up village/FPS level Vigilance Committees consisting of the consumers for supervising the distribution of PDS commodities.

Non-implementation of awards given by Central Government Tribunal

1235. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the Central Government Tribunal Awards not implemented by the BCCL as on 1st December, 1993 with details thereof giving the case, date of Award, and the present position;

(b) what is the justification for non implementation of the Awards;

(c) what are the details of the legal expenses incurred in the year 1993 till 1st December, 1993 and 1992 for contesting the Awards in the court without implementing them; and

(d) what is the justification for such expenditures ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) As on 1-12-1993, 39 awards of the cases referred to Central Government Industrial Tribunal between 1983 to 1991, have not been implemented by Bharat Coking Coal Limited. On merits of the case, the Awards have been challenged by way of Writ/Special Leave Petitions filed in the High/Supreme Court Since the cases are still pending, the legal expenses incurred in contesting the awards will emerge finally after disposal of the cases by the Court and submission of professional bills for individual cases by the lawyers.

Projects taken over by E.C.L. and B.C.C.L. in Bihar

1236. SHRI MD SALIM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Barakar Engineering Works in Nissar (Dhanbad) has been taken over by the E.C.L.;

(b) if so, on which date and under what circumstances and grounds this has been taken over with details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Bihar Talkies in Jharia has also been taken over by the Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.; and

(d) if so, on which date and under what circumstances and grounds this was taken over, with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Barakar Engineering and Foundry Works (B.E. & F.W.) in Nissar, Dhanbad District was taken over under Coal Mines (Taking over of Management) Ordinance, 1973 dated 30-1-1973. However, possession of BE&FW had to be handed over back because of stay orders from Calcutta High Court. BE&FW was, however, again taken over on 14-11-1986 under the orders of the Supreme Court.

(c) and (d) According to information furnished by Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL), Vihar Building Complex in which Vihar Talkies was located has been taken over by them on 26-6-1992 after the orders of the supreme court on 16-7-1992 permitting PCCL management to take over possession of this permises.

Judgement of the Ranchi Bench of Patna High Court involving BCCL

1237. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the judgement of the Ranchi Bench of Patna High Court dated 5-10-1993 in the CWJL member 2278 of 1993 (R) where the BCCL was made respondent;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. Management was present in the court and contested the case; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The case No. CWJC 899/89(R) relates to Industry colliery of BCCL in which 102 workmen were initially appointed as per the directives of the Ranchi Bench of Patna High Court and who were identified by Central Government Industrial Tribunal No. 1, Dhanbad. The case is still pending for the final hearing. In the meantime, another writ petition CWJC No. 2278 of 1993(R) was filed by the union praying therein that remaining 8 workmen also be got identified by the Tribunal. On 5-10-1993, the hon'ble High Court directed that the remaining 8 workmen in Ref. Case No. 49 of 1983 shall be identified by the president of the Union concerned.

BCCL contested the matter by filing Counter Affidavit.

Inadequate supply of instruments to Coal Mine workers in Bararee Colliery

1238. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the awards given to the workers of Bararee Colliery